



# Montgomery County Council

*From the Office of Councilmember Steve Silverman*

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**For Immediate Release**

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**March 2, 2004**

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## **COUNCIL PRESIDENT SILVERMAN INTRODUCES COUNCIL RESOLUTION OPPOSING FEDERAL "CLEAR LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR CRIMINAL ALIEN REMOVAL"**

Council President Steve Silverman today urged the County Council to go on record in opposition to pending federal legislation that would require County police to enforce federal immigration laws.

The resolution, co-sponsored by Councilmembers Tom Perez, George Leventhal, Michael Subin, Nancy Floreen, and Marilyn Praisner, will come to the Council for final action next Tuesday, March 9.

"This County has a long and proud history of support for our immigrant community, our 'New Americans'," said Council President Silverman. "This ill-conceived federal legislation would have a chilling effect on our community policing effort – on our efforts to build trust with our immigrant residents and fight crime.

"In addition, this is another unfunded federal mandate that would burden our police officers with what ought to be federal responsibilities – without giving us one dime to offset any costs. In fact, if we didn't comply with this legislation, we would lose out on some federal policing grants.

"I hope the Council will say 'yes' to our New Americans and to common-sense policing and 'no' to the 'Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal Act'."

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